



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

NCCIC

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STATE TIERED QUALITY STRATEGIES (TQS), 2004⁺

State	TQS Name	Scope	TQS Type*	Start Date	Funding Sources	Quality Levels		Programs Included	Includes Accreditation	Accrediting Organizations	Use Assessment Tool for Child Care Facility**
						Number	Name				
AZ	N/A	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	AMS ACSI NAA NAC NACECPP NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No
AR ¹	ABC (Arkansas Better Chance) Core Quality Component Model	Statewide	TR	2002	State Other	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH HS PPK	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC SAS	Yes
CO ²	Educare/CORRA Quality Rating System©	Statewide	QR	2000	CCDF State Private Other	Five	Zero-Star (Licensing and not yet rated) 1-Star 2-Star 3-Star 4-Star	CCC FCCH HS PPK	Yes	ACSI NAEYC NAFCC	Yes
	N/A	County Option	TR	2000	CCDF State Private Other	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS PPK	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC	No
CT	N/A	Statewide	TR	1993	CCDF State	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC	Yes	COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No

⁺ Data compiled by NCCIC between March and July 2004. This document and additional information about TQS is available on the NCCIC Web site at <http://nccic.org/poptopics/index.html#tiered>.

State	TQS Name	Scope	TQS Type*	Start Date	Funding Sources	Quality Levels		Programs Included	Includes Accreditation	Accrediting Organizations	Use Assessment Tool for Child Care Facility**
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DC	Going for the Gold	Statewide	TR QR	2000	CCDF	Four	Licensing Bronze Silver Gold	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC	Yes
FL	Gold Seal Quality Care Program	Statewide	TR	1996	CCDF State	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	ACSI ACTS APPLE MSAC NAA NAC NACECPP NAEYC NAFCC NECPA SACS	No
GA	Tiered Reimbursement Program	Pilot Available in 14 counties (Smart Start Plus counties)	TR QR	2002	CCDF	Four	Tier 1 (Licensing) Tier 2 Tier 3 Tier 4	CCC FCCH HS PPK	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC NECPA SAS	Yes
HI	N/A	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No
IN	N/A	Statewide	TR	2000	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No

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State	TQS Name	Scope	TQS Type*	Start Date	Funding Sources	Quality Levels		Programs Included	Includes Accreditation	Accrediting Organizations	Use Assessment Tool for Child Care Facility**
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KS	Early Childhood Excellence Project	Pilot Educare/ CORRA Pilot program in Kansas City Metropolitan Area	QR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
KY³	STARS for KIDS NOW Child Care Quality Rating System	Statewide	TR QR	2001	CCDF Other	Five	Licensing Level 1 Stars Level 2 Stars Level 3 Stars Level 4 Stars	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	Yes
LA	N/A	Statewide	TR	1998	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC HS	Yes	NAEYC	No
ME	N/A	Statewide	TR	2000	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
MD⁴	Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement Program	Statewide	TR QR	2001	CCDF	Four	Level 1 (Licensing) Level 2 Level 3 Level 4	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA SAS	Yes

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MA	Tiered Rate Reimbursement System	Statewide	TR	2000	CCDF State	Four	Initiative for Literacy Development for School Readiness; Initiative for Program Self Assessment; Initiative for Salary Incentive Program for Professional Development; Initiative for Longitudinal Study	CCC FCCH SAC HS	No	N/A	Yes
MS	Office for Children & Youth (OCY) Weekly Child Care Reimbursement Tiers	Statewide	TR	1997	CCDF State Private TANF	Two	Licensing Child Care Reimbursement Tier I	CCC SAC HS	Yes	NAEYC	No
MO ⁵	N/A	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	CARF COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA SAS	No
	Early Childhood Excellence Project	Pilot Educare/CORRA Pilot program in Kansas City Metropolitan Area	QR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

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State	TQS Name	Scope	TQS Type*	Start Date	Funding Sources	Quality Levels		Programs Included	Includes Accreditation	Accrediting Organizations	Use Assessment Tool for Child Care Facility**
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MT	Star Quality Rating System	Statewide	TR QR	2002	CCDF	Three	Registered (family and group homes)/ Licensed Child Care (centers) 1-Star Child Care 2-Star Child Care	CCC FCCH SAC	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
NE	N/A	Statewide	TR	1998	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
NV	N/A	Statewide	TR	2002	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC	NR
NH	Quality Award	Statewide	TR	2002	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
NJ	N/A	Statewide	TR	1998	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No
NM	AIM HIGH	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF State TANF	Six	Licensing Level One Level Two Level Three Level Four Level Five	CCC FCCH SAC FFN	Yes	AMS ACSI COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	Yes

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NY ⁶	Child Care Programs of Excellence	Pilot Pilot program in five counties	QR	2002	Other	Five	Licensing Two Stars Three Stars Four Stars Five Stars	CCC FCCH	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC	Yes
	N/A	County Option	TR	1999	NR	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
NC ⁷	North Carolina Star Rated License	Statewide	TR QR RL	1999	CCDF State TANF Other	Five	One Star Two Stars Three Stars Four Stars Five Stars	CCC FCCH SAC HS PPK	No	N/A	Yes
OH	N/A	Statewide	TR	1997	NR	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH	Yes	NAA NAC NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No
	Step Up to Quality	Pilot Pilot program in eight counties	QR	2004	CCDF	Four	Licensing Step One Step Two Step Three	CCC SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAC NAEYC NECPA	Yes
OK	Reaching for the Stars	Statewide	TR QR	1998	CCDF	Four	One Star (Licensing) One Star Plus Two Star Three Star	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	ACSI COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	Yes

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PA	Keystone STARS	Statewide	QR	2002	CCDF State	Five	Start with STARS (Licensing/Registration) STAR One STAR Two STAR Three STAR Four	CCC FCCH SAC	Yes	COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	Yes
SC	The South Carolina ABC (Advocates for Better Care) Child Care Program and Child Care Voucher System	Statewide	TR	1992	CCDF	Three	Level 1 - Participating Provider (Licensing) Level 2 - Enhanced Provider Level 3 - Accredited Provider	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC	Yes
TN ⁸	Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program	Statewide Required for all licensed and approved child care providers in Tennessee	TR QR	2001	CCDF State	Four	Licensing One Star Two Stars Three Stars	CCC FCCH SAC HS	No	N/A	Yes
	Star-Quality Child Care Program	Statewide	TR QR	2001	CCDF State	Four	Licensing One Star Two Stars Three Stars	CCC FCCH SAC HS	No	N/A	Yes

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TX⁹	Texas Rising Star Provider Certification	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF State Other	Four	Licensing Two Star Three Star Four Star	CCC FCCH	Yes	ACSI NAA NAC NAEYC NAFCC NECPA Other	Yes
UT	N/A	Statewide	TR	1998	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAA NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No
VT¹⁰	STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) for Child Care Programs	Statewide	QR	2003	CCDF State Private Other	Six	Licensing (not rated, not participating in STARS) 1 Star 2 Stars 3 Stars 4 Stars 5 Stars	CCC FCCH SAC HS PPK Other	Yes	NAA NAC NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	Yes
	Quality Incentive Bonus	Statewide	TR	1994	CCDF State TANF	Two	Licensing/ Registration Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS PPK	Yes	NAA NAC NAEYC NAFCC NECPA	No

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WA	Tiered Reimbursement Pilot Project	Pilot Three year pilot project in Spokane County	TR	2004	CCDF State Private	Four	Tier 1 (Licensing) Tier 2 Tier 3 Tier 4	CCC FCCH	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC	No
WV	N/A	Statewide	TR	1999	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	COA NAA NAEYC NAFCC	No
WI ¹¹	N/A	Statewide	TR	1997	CCDF	Two	Licensing Accreditation	CCC FCCH SAC HS	Yes	NAEYC NAFCC Other	No

KEY:

ACSI = Association for Christian Schools International
 ACTS = Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
 AMS = American Montessori Society
 APPLE = Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment
 CARF = Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
 CCC = Child Care Centers
 CCDF = Child Care and Development Fund
 COA = Council of Accreditation for Services to Families and Children
 FCCH = Family Child Care Homes
 FFN = Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care
 HS = Head Start
 MSAC = Montessori School Accreditation Commission
 N/A = Not Applicable
 NAA = National AfterSchool Association [formerly the National School-Age Care Alliance (NSACA)]

NAC = National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs
 NACECPP = National Accreditation Council for Early Childhood Professional Personnel and Programs
 NAEYC = National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation
 NAFCC = National Association for Family Child Care
 NECPA = National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
 NR = No Response
 PPK = Public Prekindergarten
 QR = Quality Rating
 RL = Rated License
 SAC = School-Age Child Care Programs
 SACS = Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 TR = Tiered Reimbursement

NOTES:

* This table includes State systems focused on care in the regulated arena and meeting the definitions of tiered reimbursement, rated license, quality rating system, or a combination of these as defined in *Tiered Quality Strategies: Definitions and State Systems* (August 2004), by Tracy Dry and Judy Collins, NCCIC, which is available on the

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NCCIC Web site in HTML format at <http://nccic.org/pubs/tiered-defsystems.html> and in PDF format at <http://nccic.org/pubs/tiered-defsystems.pdf>. This table does not include as a tiered quality strategy, practices in those States that have implemented stipends for completion of a credential, additional training hours, or lowered ratios; nor does it include differentials for certified, registered, or licensed child care programs.

** “Yes” = State uses any of the following in the tiered quality strategy: 1) environment rating scale (*Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition; Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition; Family Day Care Rating Scale*, and/or the *School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale*); 2) any other evaluative quality rating instrument such as the *Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale*; or 3) an evaluative quality rating instrument developed by the State/county for the TQS.

STATE NOTES:

¹ **Arkansas:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Beer Excise Tax

Accrediting Organizations: SAS = Arkansas Early Childhood Accreditation/Quality Approval Status

² **Colorado—Statewide/QR:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Includes county funds

Includes Accreditation: “Yes” = The Educare/CORRA Quality Rating System© includes program accreditation as a quality indicator by giving two points when accreditation is achieved and maintained. The total points that are possible are 42 for child care centers, and 39 for family child care homes.

Colorado—County Option/TR:

Funding Sources: “Other” = Includes county funds

³ **Kentucky:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Tobacco Settlement Funds

⁴ **Maryland:**

Accrediting Organizations: SAS = Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

⁵ **Missouri—Statewide/TR:**

Accrediting Organizations: SAS = Missouri Center for Accreditation System

⁶ **New York—Child Care Programs of Excellence:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Child Care Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Hatch

Includes Accreditation: “Yes” = The scores for each of the three criteria are combined and an overall score is calculated. One extra point is awarded for accreditation. The overall rating can range from 2–5 stars.

⁷ **North Carolina:** Funding Sources: “Other” = Social Services Block Grant

⁸ **Tennessee—Star-Quality Child Care Program:**

Includes Accreditation: “No” = A provider’s overall rating is determined by totaling the component ratings and then dividing the total by the number of areas on which the provider’s program was evaluated; however, if a program is accredited by a Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS)–recognized agency, it may be eligible to have one point added to its total *before* it is averaged. In the Star-Quality Child Care Program, program participants get a second, more detailed report card (the first report card is the Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program, which is mandatory for all DHS-licensed child care providers) and up to three stars to apply to their licenses. This second, more detailed report card includes component ratings as well as an overall rating for the facility.

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⁹ **Texas:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Public and private funds contributed to Workforce Development Boards for child care services.

Accrediting Organizations: “Other” = Centers operated by the U.S. Military.

¹⁰ **Vermont—STARS:**

Funding Sources: “Other” = Ongoing efforts to create other funding sources, including State and local dollars as well as foundation support.

Programs Included: “Other” = Public school preschools and licensed nonrecurring care programs.

Includes Accreditation: “Yes” = Points are totaled across five areas to determine the number of stars a program receives. In the Program Assessment area, a program can earn three points for accreditation. To achieve five stars, programs must earn at least 14 out of 15 points.

¹¹ **Wisconsin:**

Accrediting Organizations: “Other” = Madison Accreditation

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource.

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